

# ILLINOIS SOLANACEAE IN THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN HERBARIUM AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF SOME COLLECTORS

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The herbarium of the Missouri Botanical Garden (MO), established in 1859 by Henry Shaw, when Shaw purchased the Bernhardt herbarium at Erfurth, Germany, on the recommendation of George Engelmann, ranks among the greatest herbaria in the world, not only in terms of numbers of specimens but also in historic importance.

Early collections in the Missouri Botanical Garden herbarium, many of them type specimens, were made by George Engelmann, Ferdinand Lindheimer, Nicholas Riehl, Charles A. Geyer, August Fendler, George Vasey, Elihu Hall, Samuel B. Mead, H. Eggert, A. W. Chapman, and others. Later, Robert Ridgway, Jesse M. Greenman, Ernest J. Palmer, Benjamin Franklin Bush, and Frank Seymour, among others, contributed some of their United States collections to the Missouri Botanical Garden. In more recent times, the vast Missouri collections of Julian A. Steyermark have been deposited at MO.

The purpose of this paper is to document every Illinois collection of the Solanaceae in MO. Critical notes on some specimens and on the taxonomy of certain taxa are included. Brief biographical sketches of the earlier collectors cited in this paper follow the taxonomic discussion. The research was conducted in conjunction with the author's overall treatment of the Solanaceae for The Illustrated Flora of Illinois project.

## *PHYSALIS* L.

Nine species of *Physalis* from Illinois, including one previously unrecorded from Illinois, are in MO. The nomenclature for the Illinois *Physalis* used in this paper follows Mohlenbrock (1975). Most significant of the collections is a specimen of *P. texana* Rydb. The specimen, collected by George Engelmann from St. Clair County, represents the only known Illinois collection. This collection apparently has never been recorded in the literature, even though it bears an annotation label by P. A. Rydberg. Rydberg studied the United States species of *Physalia* during the last part of the nineteenth century. He published his findings in 1896 in the Memoirs of the Torrey Botanical Club. In that work, Rydberg described *P. texana* from Texas, citing a collection by Heller as the type. He also cited a Lindheimer collection from Texas, a duplicate of which is in MO, and annotated by Rydberg. It is interesting to note that although Rydberg had annotated the Illinois specimen "*P. texana* sp. nov. ?," he failed to cite the collection in his work. The Illinois specimen is extremely close in appearance to

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the Lindheimer collection from Texas. Waterfall (1958), in his treatment of the genus *Physalis* north of Mexico, considers *P. texana* to be a variety of *P. virginiana*.

Since a description of *P. texana* Rydb. does not appear in regional floras of the eastern and midwestern United States, it is described below. A photograph of the Illinois collection is found in Fig. 1.

***Physalis texana*** Rydb. Mem. Torrey Bot. Club 4:339–340. 1896.

*Physalis virginiana* Mill. var. *texana* (Rydb.) Waterfall, Rhodora 60:153. 1958.

Perennial herb from an elongated root; stems low, more or less spreading to suberect, smooth or nearly so, angular, striate, to 30 cm long; leaves ovate, acute to obtuse at the tip, rounded at the asymmetrical base, usually entire, glabrous on both surfaces, to 4 cm long, on decurrent petioles; flowers solitary, axillary, borne on peduncles up to 1 cm long; calyx campanulate, 5-lobed, the lobes ovate, about as long as the tube; corolla up to 2 cm long, yellow with a dark center; anthers yellow; fruiting calyx up to 3 cm long, ovoid, more or less 10-angled, not sunken at the base; berries purple.

ST. CLAIR: Sandy banks along the Mississippi River, opposite St. Louis, August, 1841, G. Engelmann s.n.

In the Illinois flora, *Physalis texana* is most nearly related to *P. subglabrata* and *P. macrophysa*. All three species are glabrous perennials with ovate to ovate-oblong leaves and red or purple berries. *Physalis macrophysa* differs by its large fruiting calyx up to 6 cm long. *Physalis subglabrata*, which has smaller fruiting calyces, as does *P. texana*, has larger leaves, longer peduncles, and fruiting calyces sunken at the base.

Other Illinois collections of the genus *Physalis* in MO are:

***Physalis heterophylla*** Nees var. **heterophylla**. COOK: H. H. Babcock s.n.; J. M. Greenman 1973, 2044, 2802, 2821, 2880. HENDERSON: H. N. Patterson s.n. KNOX: J. Solomon 1122. RICHLAND: R. Ridgway 2185, 2187, 2451, 2465. ST. CLAIR: H. Eggert s.n.; G. Engelmann s.n.; A. S. Hitchcock s.n.; J. Norton s.n. STARK: V. H. Chase 59-97. WABASH: R. Ridgway 2585.

***Physalis heterophylla*** Nees var. **ambigua** (Gray) Rydb. COOK: A. Chase 1482. WABASH: E. J. Palmer 15570.

***Physalis heterophylla*** Nees var. **nyctaginea** (Gray) Rydb. RICHLAND: R. Ridgway 2581.

***Physalis ixocarpa*** Brotero. ST. CLAIR: J. O Neill 5410.

***Physalis lanceolata*** Michx. COOK: H. Babcock s.n. MADISON: Collector unknown #337. PEORIA: V. H. Chase 3570; J. R. Churchill s.n. ST. CLAIR: H. Eggert s.n.

***Physalis pendula*** Rydb. ALEXANDER: E. J. Palmer 16489. ST. CLAIR: H. Eggert s.n.; F. Wislizenus 338.

***Physalis pruinosa*** L. ST. CLAIR: H. Eggert s.n.; G. Engelmann s.n.; J. Neill 11402.

***Physalis pubescens*** L. HARDIN: E. J. Palmer 19589. ST. CLAIR: H. Eggert s.n.; G. Engelmann s.n.; J. Neill 16099, 16791; R. J. Seibert 1142.

***Physalis subglabrata*** Mack. & Bush. CHAMPAIGN: G. N. Jones 16594. KANKAKEE: E. E. Sherff 1636. ST. CLAIR: J. O. Neill 11175, 16258. TAZEWELL: V. H. Chase 3252, 17048.

***Physalis virginiana*** Mill. KANKAKEE: O. E. Lansing & E. E. Sherff 3. STARK: V. H. Chase 595.



*Physalis* ;  
 Sandy banks of the Mississippi  
 opposite St Louis  
**GEORGE ENGELMANN M.D.**  
 ST. LOUIS, MO Aug 1841

FIGURE 1. (above) Herbarium specimen of *Physalis texana* Rydb., from St. Clair County, Illinois. (below) Label from specimen of *P. texana* from Illinois.

*NICOTIANA* L.

*Nicotiana* in the midwestern states is usually represented by a few collections of *N. rustica* L., growing as an escape from cultivation. Rarely are any other species found as adventives. There is a specimen from Illinois, however, in MO of *N. longiflora*, a well defined species rarely found as an escape from cultivation in the eastern United States. The species was collected on July 9, 1858, by J. Norton in East St. Louis, where two plants were observed, according to the collection notes.

Because of the infrequency of this species in the eastern United States, and because descriptions of it are not found in regional floras, *Nicotiana longiflora* is characterized below. A photograph of the Illinois specimen is seen in Fig. 2.

***Nicotiana longiflora*** Cav. Descr. Pl. 106. 1802.

Annual or perennial herb; stems erect, to 1 m tall, sparsely pubescent, rarely viscid; basal leaves in a rosette, oblanceolate to elliptic-ovate, pointed at the tip, tapering to the base into a winged petiole, slightly pubescent, up to 30(–50) cm long; cauline leaves lanceolate to lance-ovate, sessile, auriculate; inflorescence racemose, the flowers not overlapping; flowers mildly fragrant, borne on pedicels up to 20 mm long; calyx 5-lobed, the lobes subulate, about as long as the tube, the tube 10-nerved; corolla pale yellow, often tinged with purple, puberulent on the outside, 5-lobed, the lobes ovate, acute, the tube up to 12 cm long, up to 2.5 mm broad; capsule ovoid, 10–15 mm long, with ellipsoid seeds up to 0.5 mm long, light brown, reticulate.

ST. CLAIR: East St. Louis, July 9, 1858, *J. Norton s.n.*

*SOLANUM* L.

*Solanum* is represented by collections in MO of six of the eight species recorded from Illinois. The most significant collections of the genus are two made by Elihu Hall from Menard County, each representing the first collection of the species from Illinois. One is of *Solanum rostratum* Dunal, the other of *S. triflorum* Nutt. A collection by H. Eggert of *S. elaeagnifolium* from St. Clair County marks the southernmost record for this plant in Illinois.

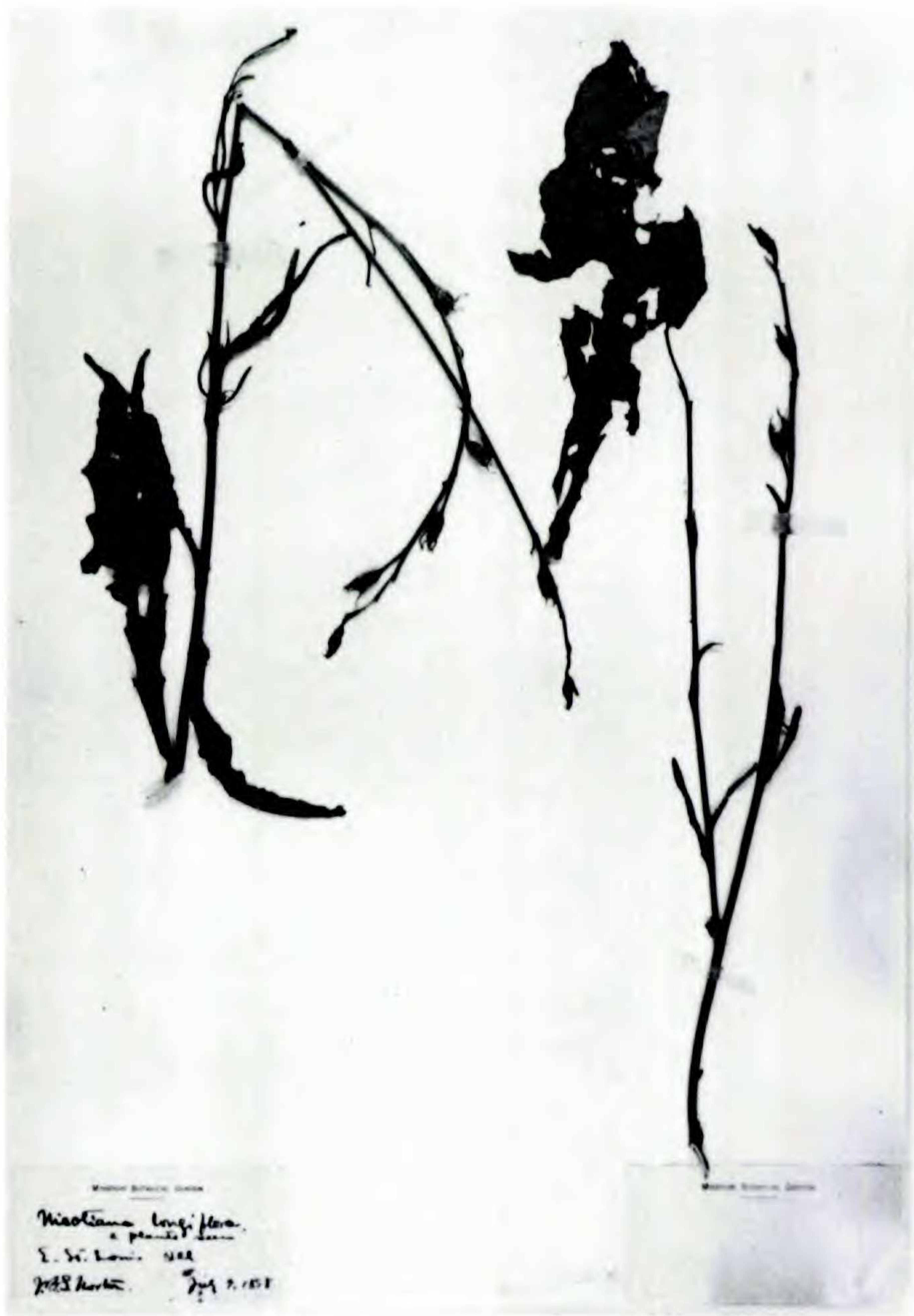
The binomial *Solanum ptycanthum* Dun. is used below for plants usually referred to as *S. americanum* L. and *S. nigrum*, following Schilling (1981). *Solanum americanum* and *S. nigrum* are two distinct species, apparently not occurring in Illinois.

***Solanum carolinense*** L. CLINTON: *W. D'Arcy 3424*. JACKSON: *J. McCree 1261*. KNOX: *J. Solomon 1145*. MADISON: *J. Solomon 3877*. MARION: *W. D'Arcy 3431*. RANDOLPH: *W. D'Arcy 3467*. RICHLAND: *R. Ridgway 2452*. ST. CLAIR: *H. Eggert s.n.*

***Solanum dulcamara*** L. KNOX: *J. Solomon 1207*. PERRY: *H. Eggert s.n.*

***Solanum elaeagnifolium*** Cav. ST. CLAIR: *H. Eggert s.n.*

***Solanum ptycanthum*** Dun. ex DC. CHAMPAIGN: *G. N. Jones 17353*. COOK: *J. M. Greenman 2811*. JACKSON: *J. McCree 1265*. KNOX: *J. Solomon 1092*. ST. CLAIR: *J. O. Neill 16299*. WABASH: *R. Ridgway 2852*. WILLIAMSON: *J. McCree 798*.



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*Nicotiana longiflora*.  
 2 plants seen  
 E. St. Louis Ill  
 W.B.S. Horton. July 9, 1858.

FIGURE 2. (above) Herbarium specimen of *Nicotiana longiflora* L., collected in St. Clair County, Illinois. (below) Label from specimen of *N. longiflora* from Illinois.

**Solanum rostratum** Dunal. COOK: *J. R. Churchill s.n.*; *H. H. Smith 5755*. MENARD: *E. Hall 5879*. MONTGOMERY: *Hlaskan s.n.* RICHLAND: *R. Ridgway 2620*. ST. CLAIR: *H. Eggert s.n.*; *J. Norton s.n.* TAZEWELL: *V. H. Chase 3603*.

**Solanum triflorum** Nutt. MENARD: *E. Hall s.n.*

#### DATURA L.

Of the two species of *Datura* known from Illinois, only *D. stramonium* and its variety *tatula* are represented in MO.

**Datura stramonium** L. CHAMPAIGN: *G. N. Jones 17495*. KANKAKEE: *E. E. Sherff 1617, 1628*. MENARD: *O. E. Lansing & E. E. Sherff 67*. ST. CLAIR: *H. Eggert s.n.*; *J. H. Kellogg s.n.*; *J. O. Neill 15761*. TAZEWELL: *V. H. Chase 3605*.

**Datura stramonium** L. var. *tatula* (L.) Torr. KNOX: *J. Solomon 1135*. ST. CLAIR: *J. P. Bennett 41*.

#### HYOSCYAMUS L.

The escaped henbane, *Hyoscyamus niger* L., is the only member of the genus in Illinois, and it has not been collected during the twentieth century. The only Illinois specimen in MO has not been reported before in literature on the Illinois flora.

**Hyoscyamus niger** L. Northern Illinois: *G. Vasey 5924*.

#### LYCIUM L.

One of two species of matrimony vine known from Illinois is represented in MO.

**Lycium halimifolium** Mill. MADISON: *Minden s.n.* ST. CLAIR: *H. Eggert s.n.*; *L. H. Pammel s.n.* TAZEWELL: *V. H. Chase 3295*.

### BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

HENRY HOMES BABCOCK (1832–1881) was born in Thetford, Vermont, and attended Dartmouth College from 1849–1851 before moving to Illinois. He collected about 10,000 specimens in Illinois. The bulk of his herbarium was given to Northwestern University in 1887, although a few specimens were given to the Missouri Botanical Garden.

MARY AGNES CHASE (1869–1963) was a native of Iroquois County, Illinois. After serving as a proofreader for the Chicago Inter Ocean, she was employed as an assistant botanist at the Field Museum of Natural History from 1901 to 1903. In 1903 she moved to Washington where she was employed by the United States Department of Agriculture, first as an agrostology artist until 1907, then as assistant systematic agrostologist from 1907 to 1918, and finally as agrostologist until her retirement. Some of her early collections are from Cook County, Illinois.

VIRGINIUS HEBER CHASE (1876–1966) was born in Wady Petra, Illinois, the great grandson of Philander Chase, an Episcopal bishop and founder of Kenyon College in Ohio and Jubilee College near Peoria, Illinois. At the age of 17, Virginius became interested in plants, and he and his aunt Agnes (see above) began

collecting and "keying out" plants on their own, a hobby he pursued for the remainder of his life. For a while, Chase served as telegraph operator in Wady Petra, and then built a grain elevator and conducted a successful business in lumber, drain tile, coal, and feed. For twenty-eight years he worked in the P. & P. U. railroad freight house at Peoria. In later years he also served as custodian of the Peoria Academy of Science. Chase made several thousand collections of plants, many of them from Peoria, Stark, Tazewell, and Woodford counties, Illinois. A part of his collection was sold to the Missouri Botanical Garden to help defray his collection expenses.

JOSEPH RICHMOND CHURCHILL (1845–1933) spent most of his life in Massachusetts but travelled and collected plants extensively in the United States as an avocation. After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1869, he practiced law in Boston with his father before being named judge of the Municipal Court, Dorchester District of Boston, a position he held for 60 years. During his life, he became a close friend of Jesse More Greenman of the Missouri Botanical Garden, a friendship that resulted in Churchill willing his herbarium to the Missouri Botanical Garden.

EARL DOUGLASS (1862–1931) was born in Medford, Minnesota. He received his B.S. from Iowa State College in 1893 and an M.S. from the University of Montana in 1900 in vertebrate paleontology before becoming a fellow at Princeton University from 1900 to 1902. In 1902, Douglass became a member of the Department of Vertebrate Paleontology at the Carnegie Museum, where he worked for the rest of his life. His most important contribution was the discovery of an important dinosaur fossil bed along the Green River in Utah, later to become known as Dinosaur National Monument. During 1890 and 1891, Douglass served as an assistant to Professor William Trelease at the Missouri Botanical Garden. It was during this brief period that he made a few plant collections in Illinois.

HEINRICH KARL DANIEL EGGERT (1841–1904) was born in Osterwieck, Germany, and he served as a public teacher in Magdeburg for a few years before coming to the United States in 1873 to seek his fortune. He worked on a farm in southern New York for a few months prior to coming to the St. Louis area. Unable to find suitable employment, he became a newspaper deliveryman, a profession he followed for twenty years. During this time, he became a close friend of Dr. George Engelmann, who encouraged Eggert's interest in plant collecting. Eggert collected hundreds of plants from St. Clair County, Illinois, during his life. He also collected large quantities of seeds of native grapevines, which he sent to Europe to stock European vineyards that had been depleted by the fungus *Phylloxera*. His herbarium of 60,000 specimens is in MO.

GEORGE ENGELMANN (1809–1884), the oldest of thirteen children, was born in Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany. He obtained an M.D. degree from Wuerzburg in 1831, his doctoral dissertation being on the abnormalities in plants and their relationships to morphology. For a few months, he studied botany in Paris with the German botanist Alexander Braun. In 1832, Engelmann sailed for the United States where his family owned land in the Mississippi Valley. Engelmann moved in with his cousin in Belleville, Illinois, in February 1833. After two-and-one-half

years, he moved to St. Louis, where he began practicing medicine and pursuing his hobbies of botany and meteorology. He was a highly successful and respected physician from 1835 to 1884. Engelmann chose to work on plant groups considered to be difficult—Cactaceae, *Cuscuta*, *Juncus*, *Vitis*, *Yucca*, *Agave*, *Quercus*, *Pinus*, *Abies*, and *Juniperus*. In the early 1840s, Engelmann instructed August Fendler in botanical matters so that Fendler could become curator of Henry Shaw's botanical garden herbarium. After Engelmann's death, his son presented Dr. Engelmann's herbarium of 40,000 specimens to the Missouri Botanical Garden. Several of Engelmann's collections were from St. Clair County, Illinois.

KARL ANDREAS GEYER was born in Dresden, Germany, on November 30, 1809. At the age of 21, Geyer began working at the Dresden Botanic Garden where he was employed until he left for America in 1834. He was with the Nicollet expedition surveying the country between the Missouri and Mississippi rivers in 1836. It was during 1840 and part of 1841 that he collected in the St. Louis area on both sides of the Mississippi and along the Illinois River as far northeast as Cass County. During this time he became a good friend of Dr. George Engelmann. From 1841 to 1844, he explored from Missouri to the Pacific Coast, leaving for Europe by boat on November 13, 1844. He returned to work at the Dresden Botanic Garden where he remained until his death on November 21, 1853.

NOAH MILLER GLATFELTER (1837–1911) was another prominent plant collector in the St. Louis area. Born in York County, Pennsylvania, Glatfelter received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1864, and shortly thereafter became the Assistant Surgeon of United States Volunteers. After the Civil War, Glatfelter settled in the St. Louis area and began his private medical practice. It was not until 1889 that he became engrossed in the study of plants, collecting vascular plants and fungi extensively in the St. Louis area. He became known as an authority on the genus *Salix*.

JESSE MORE GREENMAN (1867–1951), born in North East, Pennsylvania, received degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard before obtaining his Ph.D. in Berlin in 1901. After serving as Assistant Curator in the Department of Botany at the Chicago Natural History Museum and Assistant Professor of Botany at the University of Chicago, he became Curator of the Herbarium at the Missouri Botanical Garden and Professor of Botany at Washington University, positions he held from 1913 to 1948. Some Greenman collections are from northern Illinois.

ELIHU HALL (1822–1882), a native of Patrick County, Virginia, was trained as a surveyor. For much of his life, he served as surveyor of Menard County, Illinois, as well as being a farmer. As an amateur botanist, Hall collected many plants that were new for Illinois, including a few species new to science. In 1858, he helped organize the Illinois Natural History Society in Bloomington. In addition to collecting plants, Hall painted both plants and animals. In the later years of his life, Hall made an extensive collection of fresh water and land snails of Illinois.

ALBERT SPEAR HITCHCOCK (1865–1935), born in Owasso, Michigan, received three degrees from Iowa State College. For a decade, he was Professor of Botany



at Kansas State College before becoming agrostologist at the United States National Herbarium, a position he held from 1901 to 1935. After studying at various European herbaria in 1935, Hitchcock died at sea en route home on "The City of Norfolk." A few Hitchcock collections are from Illinois.

HENRI THEODORE ANTOINE DELENG HUS (1876-?) was born in Leyden, Holland, on May 14, 1876. While still a youth, Hus came to America where he obtained bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of California and a doctorate in 1908 at Washington University in St. Louis. He was employed as an experimenter at the Missouri Botanical Garden from 1905 to 1908. It was during this time he made a few collections of plants from Illinois. In 1908 he became an employee of the New York Botanical Garden.

JOHN HENRY KELLOGG (1862-1939), a St. Louisan all his life, was a gardener at the Missouri Botanical Garden from 1900 to 1931. He learned about native plants from Geoge Letterman, and both he and Letterman collected extensively in the Allenton, Missouri, area. Kellogg was an active member of the St. Louis Wild Flower Club. Only a few of his collections are from Illinois.

ODELLE EDWARD LANSING (1867-1918) collected in northern Illinois while employed as assistant botanist at the Field Museum.

GEORGE WASHINGTON LETTERMAN (1841-1913), born in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, interrupted his schooling at State College in Center County, Pennsylvania, to enlist in the Union Army during the Civil War. After the war, Letterman settled in Allenton, Missouri, a few miles west of St. Louis. He taught in the public school system for twenty years and then served two years as superintendent of schools of St. Louis County. He became interested in woody plants through his friendship with August Fendler and Dr. George Engelmann. In 1880 he was appointed by the United States government to collect data on trees and forests in Missouri, Arkansas, and parts of Louisiana and Texas. Later he collected tree specimens for the American Museum of Natural History's Jesup Collection of North American Woods. He collected frequently in the Allenton, Missouri, area with John Henry Kellogg. Only a few of Letterman's collections are from Illinois.

FRANCIS EUGENE McDONALD (1860-1920), born in Wyanet, Illinois, moved at an early age to Peoria where he resided for the remainder of his life. Although he studied law and was admitted to the bar on January 8, 1883, he was not excited about the legal profession. When his father became ill, McDonald took his place as a railway mail clerk, a position which became permanent in 1884 and which he held until his death. McDonald collected plants as a hobby, mostly in the Peoria area.

WILL SAYER MOFFATT (1847-1941) obtained a medical degree from Hahnemann Medical College in 1868 and practiced medicine in Chicago while living in Wheaton. He was a frequent collector of flowering plants and fungi in the Chicago area, often in the company of H. S. Pepon. Moffatt published works on the higher fungi of the Chicago region. On his retirement from the medical profession in 1927, he moved to Los Angeles where he resided until his death.

ERNEST JESSE PALMER (1875–1962) was born in Leicester, England. As a railroad worker in Webb City, Missouri, Palmer had an early interest in geology and botany. From 1913 to 1948, he was a field collector for the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Arnold Arboretum. Palmer made one extensive trip across southern Illinois in 1919.

LOUIS HERMAN PAMMEL (1862–1931) was born in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. After receiving a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1885, Pammel studied in the Farlow Laboratory of Harvard University before enrolling in the Henry Shaw School of Botany at Washington University. He completed his doctorate under the direction of William Trelease. For forty years, Pammel was head of the Department of Botany at Iowa State College. He wrote the Iowa conservation bill and served as the first chairman of the Iowa Conservation Board. Although Pammel collected primarily in the Rocky Mountains, he did make a few excursions into Illinois.

HENRY NORTON PATTERSON (1853–1919) lived most of his life in Oquawka, Illinois, the place of his birth. He was a printer by trade, specializing in printing botanical lists and labels. Patterson collected extensively in the Oquawka area, as well as in Colorado.

ROBERT RIDGWAY (1850–1929) was born in Mt. Carmel, Illinois, and died in Olney, Illinois. In between, he carved out an illustrious career as an ornithologist and botanist. He also developed a standard color chart that is still in use today. Most of his Illinois plant collections are from Wabash County, Illinois.

JACOB SCHNECK (1843–1906) was a native of New Harmony, Indiana. Schneck taught school for a short time in Olney, Illinois, until he enrolled in the Chicago Medical College where he received his M.D. in 1871. Until his death in 1906, he practiced medicine in Mt. Carmel, Illinois. He spent much of his free time collecting plants in the Wabash Valley of Illinois, near his home.

EARL EDWARD SHERFF (1886–1966) was a professionally trained botanist, receiving a bachelor's degree from Albion College and the masters and doctorate from the University of Chicago. After teaching in high schools at Elgin, Deerfield (Highland Park), Christian Fenger (Chicago), and Lindblom Technical High (Chicago), he taught at Chicago Teachers College and was a Research Associate at the Chicago Natural History Museum. He collected extensively in the Chicago area, often in the company of O. E. Lansing.

HURON HERBERT SMITH (1883–1933), a native of Danville, Indiana, obtained a bachelor's degree from DePauw University and a master's degree from Cornell University. From 1917 to 1933, Smith was Curator of Botany at the Milwaukee Public Museum until he was tragically killed when his car was hit by a train in Glenview, Illinois. In addition to collecting plants in the Chicago area, he was an authority on Indian life and was made a member of the Menominee tribe.

LEVI MENGER UMBACH (1853–1918) was born on July 15, 1853, in Ontario. After receiving his college degree from Northwestern College of Naperville, Illinois, in 1877, he returned to the college where he was professor of physical and

biological sciences from 1884 to 1918. He collected many specimens of vascular plants from the Chicago region and from JoDaviess County, Illinois.

GEORGE VASEY (1822–1893) was born in Scarborough, Yorkshire, England. In 1848, he obtained his medical degree from the Berkshire Medical Institute in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. He practiced medicine in Elgin (Kane County) and Ringwood (McHenry County), Illinois, from 1848 to 1866. In 1868, he went on the Powell expedition to Colorado as a botanist. From 1869 to 1872, he was Curator of the Natural History Museum at Normal, Illinois, until he was appointed Botanist at the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. Among his vast collections are many specimens from northeastern Illinois.

FRIEDRICH ADOLPH WISLIZENUS (1810–1889) was born in Königsee, Schwarzburg Rudolstadt, Germany. After receiving his medical degree from Zurich in 1834, he sailed for New York in 1835 to practice medicine. After two years, he moved to Mascoutah, Illinois, where he also collected plants. In 1839 he moved to St. Louis and became a close friend of Dr. George Engelmann. Engelmann left his medical profession in Wislizenus' hands when he went on botanical excursions. Wislizenus, himself, collected extensively in the southwestern United States and was a member of several expeditions.

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